



OPEN THE BOOKS™

A Project of American Transparency

200 S. Frontage Road, Suite 304, Burr Ridge, IL 60527

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 21, 2015 | Contact: Adam Andrzejewski, 312.320.1867

ATTORNEY GENERAL LISA MADIGAN HANDS OUT NEARLY \$1,000,000 IN PAY HIKES TO 109 SELECT EMPLOYEES SINCE 2011

Attorney General Far Outpaces Governor, Treasurer, Comptroller, Secretary of State, and Lt. Governor on pay hikes to Select Employees

Burr Ridge, IL – Today Adam Andrzejewski, Chairman of *American Transparency and transparency website OpenTheBooks.com*, released a report showing that Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan gave nearly a million dollars in raises to “exempt” employees over the past four years. Exempt employees are non-union employees who are not subject to political hiring restrictions.

“While Illinois has \$5 billion in unpaid bills to service providers including doctors, hospitals, assisted living senior centers, colleges, schools, and women’s shelters, Attorney General Lisa Madigan gave raises of up to 49 percent. Every dollar that went to these questionable promotions was a dollar not available to serve some of the most vulnerable citizens of our state,” said Adam Andrzejewski.

The raises **Madigan** authorized range from \$1,656 to \$32,036,004. On a percentage basis the salary spikes vary from three to 49 percent. The salary bumps average nearly 16 percent over the last two years and more than \$9,737 per employee.

Specific examples:

- *An Executive Assistant to “Senior” Executive Assistant in 2013, **Patrick J. Ryan**’s salary increased from \$47,820 to 65,004 in 2013, a \$17,184 bump.*
- *The largest single raise went to **Sarah Pratt**, who was promoted from Bureau Chief (\$65,572, 2011) to Public Access Counselor (\$97,608, 2013) - a \$32,036 increase or 49 percent hike. Despite receiving a massive pay hike, Pratt has left repeated watchdog and citizen official “requests for reviews” without response for over two years and has only issued a limited number of “binding opinions” per annum.*
- *In 2014, **Eugene Tubbs** was on the job for only one month when he went from a Law Clerk to what is non-transparently described by the Illinois AG as “MG” with a \$17,500 pay hike and now earns \$57,504.*

- A largest set of raises went to **Kareem Kenyatta** who received a 44 percent increase with a double promotion during a five month period in 2012. From a *Legislative Liaison* to *Deputy Director* to *Director of Legislative Affairs*, Kenyatta went from \$45,000 to \$65,004 in 2013, a \$20,004 bump. Promoted to the Attorney General's office chief lobbyist at 30 years old, Kenyatta lacked a law degree. But, Kenyatta used to work for House Speaker Michael Madigan.

American Transparency sourced our report through a Freedom of Information Act Request. Additional resources can be found at our website, www.openthebooks.com.

###

Media Advisory Background- Adam Andrzejewski, Chairman

“The Attorney General far outpaces the Governor, Treasurer, Comptroller, Secretary of State, and Lt. Governor having given more raises to more select employees at a larger total taxpayer expense. Lisa Madigan gave 109 employees \$967,900 since 2011.”

Background on Governor Quinn political appointee pay hikes:

<http://www.sj-r.com/top-stories/x41621262/State-budget-gets-leaner-but-not-for-Quinns-staff>

Background on Treasurer Dan Rutherford, Comptroller Judy Barr-Topinka, Secretary of State Jesse White, and Lt. Governor Sheila Simon:

http://www.bettergov.org/rutherford_topinka_give_raises_to_top_employees/

Updated 2015 editorial coverage of Quinn and Rutherford patronage pay hikes:

<http://www.sj-r.com/article/20150103/OPINION/150109891?template=printart>

http://www.daily-journal.com/opinion/editorials/pay-raises-damage-rutherford-s-reputation/article_83886700-a876-5624-bfb5-65a3c425b10b.html

“Just one of Lisa Madigan’s patronage hires was promoted to “Supervising Attorney” and lives 507 round-trip miles from the Attorney General office in Chicago. In 2011, Cecilia Abundis was promoted and allowed to move two states away and allowed to keep her job. She lives in Dearborn, MI.”

Background: Case Study- Cecilia Abundis from 2013: <http://forthegoodofillinois.org/blog/2013/01/case-example-why-is-the-state-checkbook-important/>

“Pay spiking to insiders is also going on with Lisa Madigan’s non-exempt hires. Ronald Yawger, Special Investigator, has experienced a pay hike from \$53,195 in 2008 to \$119,745 in 2013. Yawger is retired on a Chicago Police Department pension and was the initial investigator in the botched investigation of the David Koschman killing.” Background: Our reporting from 2012...

<http://forthegoodofillinois.org/blog/2012/12/botched-homicide-investigation-golden-parachute/>

“The Attorney General Lisa Madigan is out of touch with the seniors, taxpayers and families in Illinois. While families are doing more with less, Lisa Madigan handed out big pay spikes to political appointees. It’s another example of why taxpayers are angry.”

“As Illinois’ top cop, Attorney General Lisa Madigan can not find government corruption anywhere. Yet, during these are tough economic times, she handed out a million dollars’ worth of raises to political appointees. Lisa Madigan needs to be held accountable.”

Background: From 2002-2011, 14 cases of public corruption handled by Illinois Attorney General. Illinois has over 700,000 active public employees at all levels of government.

https://www.openthebooks.com/assets/1/7/AG_Madigan_Public_Corruption_Prosecutions_2002-2011.pdf